

REMARKS

Claims 21-25 and 30-32 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claims 21, 22, 24, and 31

Claims 21, 22, 24, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Jones, U.S. Patent No. 5,468,080 ("Jones"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding independent Claims 21 and 31, Applicant submits that Jones fails to disclose or suggest "a bag onto which a printing content is printed," as claimed. Merriam-Webster® defines a bag as: "a usually flexible container that may be closed for holding, storing, or carrying something."¹ The American Heritage® Dictionary defines a bag as: "A container of flexible material, such as paper, plastic, or leather, that is used for carrying or storing items."² Jones is generally directed to a printer "for printing on a plastic film." (Abstract). As described in Jones, the printer prints information, including a bar code, on a plastic film. (Figure 7). There is no disclosure or suggestion in Jones of "a bag onto which printing content is printed."

Additionally, regarding Claims 21 and 31, Jones fails to disclose or suggest a first mark defining (being indicative of) a transport direction, as recited. Regarding this limitation, the Examiner refers to the mark 125 of Figure 7. Jones describes that this mark "indicates window 'W' is in proper register with print head 98." Therefore, it appears that the mark 125 indicates to

¹ Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary: <http://www.webster.com/cgi-bin/dictionary>.

² The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.
<http://www.bartleby.com/61/47/B0024700.html>.

the printer that the window 'W' which is to be printed on, is in alignment with the print head. However, there is no indication that this mark indicates any direction of transport; rather, the mark merely indicates alignment.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicant submits that Jones fails to anticipate Claims 21 and 31 and that Claims 22 and 24 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 21. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 21, 22, 24, and 31 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 25, 30, and 32

Claims 25, 30, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly anticipated by Kimura, JP 57006974 ("Kimura").

Regarding independent Claims 25 and 32, Applicant submits that Kimura fails to disclose or suggest a folded portion, as claimed, "comprising a portion of the first surface and the second surface which have been doubled over such that the folded portion comprises at least four layers."

Regarding the claimed folded portion, the Examiner asserts that "The most reasonable interpretation of the bag in figures 2 and 3 of Kimura is that the bag is folded. In order to arrange the bag in figures 2 and 3, one must fold it onto itself much like a photographic print bag is folded." (Office Action, p. 3-4). Applicant notes that Figure 2 of Kimura illustrates a bag which is formed by doubling over a single sheet of material such that the upper layer of the bag and the lower layer of the bag are actually formed from a single sheet which is folded at the end (or bottom) of the bag. The "bag" of Kimura is a bag which is formed by folding a single sheet over on itself.

However, Kimura fails to disclose or suggest a bag having a folded portion as presently claimed, where *both* layers of the bag are folded over to effectively close one end of the bag and form a folded portion of at least four layers (the first surface doubled over and the second surface doubled over).

Therefore, in view of at least the above, Applicant submits that Kimura fails to anticipate Claims 25 and 32, and that Claim 30 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependence on Claim 25. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 25, 30, and 32 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 23

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Jones, in view of Kimura. Applicant submits that Kimura fails to remedy the above-described deficiencies of Jones, and therefore, Claim 23 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependence on claim 21.

Conclusion

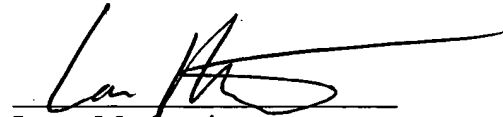
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No.: 10/612,968

Q76146

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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